high magnitude from collieries. Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to alleged pilferage of direct feed and washed coking coal being supplied by Coal India Ltd. (CIL) to steel plants. The total quantity of such coal supplied to steel plants during March '92 from CIL sources was 7.4 lakh tonnes (provisional). As such the alleged shortage of 25 lakh tonnes is even more than the supplies made.

(c) Coal companies have no facilities for en-route weighment. Such weighment, if any, can be done only by railways.

(d) Coal is sold by coal companies on ex-pithead basis. Coal companies are, therefore, not responsible for any en-route pilferage.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of reply to part (d) above.

Cell to monitor the effect of duty concessions on medicines

*68. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2075 given in Rajya Sabha on the 12th December, 1991 and state:

(a) whether his ministry has any proposal to set up a cell to monitor the effect of duty concessions;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) whether it is a fact that consumer prices of medicines are not reduced and the benefit of duty concession is retained by the producers or their principals abroad in league with some officials;

(d) what is the effect of duty reduction on Cefotaxim Sodium and Ceftazidime, when was the duty reduced and when was the benefit of duty reduction passed on to the consumers; and

(e) what steps have been taken by Government to break the nexus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND PERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) No Sir, However the strengthening of the present administrative arrangements for handling this work through reorganisation of the existing staff in the Deptt. is under examination.

(c) to (e) The purpose of giving customs duty concessions on intermediates and bulk drugs is to encourage the manufacture of bulk drugs/formulations from more basic stages, as also to ensure the availability of medicines in abundant quantity at reasonable prices to the consumer. The prices of bulk drugs/formulations are fixed in consultation with BICP on the basis of latest duty structure in case of items under price control.

The bulk drugs Ceftazidime and Cefotaxim Sodium were exempted from customs duty w.e.f. July, 1991 and September, 1991 respectively. This exemption was given to encourage the indigenous production of formulations and to save foreign exchange on the import of formulations which has been exempted from customs duty.

Impact of budget on industry

*69. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new budgetary changes, direct and indirect, have helped industry like intermediate consumer durables and certain basic segment of industries to overcome the recession, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the partial free convertibility of rupee has created an industrial growth climate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) The Union Budget 1992-93 announced a number of changes such as the rationalisation and lowering of custom duties, the reform of direct taxes including in particular reduction of tax on productive assets, the introduction of the Liberalised Exchange Rate Management System for market related exchange rate determination, measures for reform in the

capital markets, lowering of interest rates on commercial credit and reduction in Statutory Liquidity Ratio applicable to banks. All these changes are designed to enable the industrial sector including intermediates, consumer durables and the basic segments to resume dynamic growth.

(b) The partial free convertibility of rupee alongwith new Export and Import Policy, 1992—97 has removed unnecessary bureaucratic bottlenecks in import decisions and has provided a new climate for industrial growth.

*70. [*Transferred to the 8th May*, 1992]

*71. [*Transferred to the 12th May*, 1992]

Reinstatement of Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers

*72. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI KRISHAN KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers who was under suspension due to cases of corruption against him has been reinstated despite several FIRs for embezzlement and cheating registered against him;

(b) if so, what are the details of the charges against him;

(c) whether it is also a fact that C.B.I. has filed evidence regarding his involvement in several cases of corruption, fraud and embezzlement; and

(d) what are the considerations which weighed with Government to reinstate the Chairman-cum-Managing Director without his being cleared of the charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (d) The Chairman & Managing Director, Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCF), the Managing Director, Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO), and the Managing Director, National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), who were all members of the Central Purchase Committee (CPC) were suspended on 11-5-1990 following receipt of a preliminary report from the CBI alleging that the members of the CPC entered into a criminal conspiracy in pursuance of which they misused their official position and showed undue favours to private suppliers thereby causing substantial pecuniary loss to the various public/cooperative fertilizer companies. The CPC had been set up to recommend purchase of jute/HDPE bags for public cooperative sector fertilizer companies.

The position in regard to the continued suspension of these Chief Executives pending completion of the proceedings was reviewed from time to time. It was first decided to revoke the suspension orders in respect of the Chief Executives of NFL and KRIBHCO. The suspension order in respect of CMD, RCF, who had functioned as the Convenor of the CPC, was examined further indepth. He was allowed to resume duties as it was felt that it was only proper that the same treatment as in the case of other to Chief Executives involved in the case be given to the CMD, RCF also. The revocation of suspension in respect of all these officers is however without prejudice to any action that may be taken when the case is finalised.

There are other CBI cases against the CMD, RCF. These cases are being pursued

Setting up of float glass manufacturing plant by Mitsubishi

*73. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mitsubishi, a big Japanese conglomerate, has decided to set up a Rs. 150 crore float glass manufacturing plant in India and also considering several other new investment proposals; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether the company has put forth any conditions for their investments and